

Adopted February 4, 1944

File No. 3832-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
on the
Investigation of an Accident Involving Aircraft
During a Local Pleasure Flight

Earl McQuown, Jr., was seriously injured in an accident which occurred at the Municipal Airport, Red Oak, Iowa, at approximately 5:50 p.m. on September 5, 1943. McQuown held a commercial pilot certificate with single-engine land, 0-220 h.p., and flight instructor ratings. He had flown approximately 1350 solo hours, 1275 of which were in the type of plane involved. The airplane, an Aeronca 65-CA, NC 33712, owned by Earl McQuown, Sr., was extensively damaged.

Pilot McQuown, on a local pleasure flight from the Red Oak Municipal Airport, flew over the airport, headed south, at an altitude of approximately 600 feet. According to the pilot, he attempted a half snap roll near the center of the field. During this maneuver he lost control and the plane, with power off, dived toward the ground. Power was applied about 10 or 15 feet above the ground and partial recovery had been effected when the aircraft crashed in an almost level position, shearing off the landing gear. The plane then slid forward about 300 feet on the bottom of the fuselage and the tail whipped around striking the left wing tip of a parked aircraft.

McQuown was not equipped with a parachute. There was a brisk south-southeast wind of 16 m.p.h. and the air near the ground was turbulent. The airport manager stated that he had previously warned this pilot against reckless flying at the subject airport.

The probable cause of this accident was failure of the pilot to effect recovery from an acrobatic maneuver performed at a low altitude.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ W. A. Topas as
Secretary